

LANDSAT MONTHLY UPDATE

August 2004

The Landsat Program is managed by the U.S. Geological Survey under authority established by Presidential Decision Directive NSTC-3.

Landsat Data Retrieval System

The Landsat data archive, reaching back to 1972, largely exists on aging analog tape media retrieved and handled manually for product requests. The Landsat Archive Conversion System (LACS), which began operations in June 2004, will convert analog data from these tapes to digital data stored in automated near-line silo. LACS also significantly automated the processes of collecting new Landsat 5 data from the satellite and placing those data in the archive. The process previously took approximately 24 hours from the time of data collection until it became available for customers to order. With LACS, this process takes only 3 hours.



Historic data archive (Left) and automated silo storage (Right) located at the EROS Data Center.

Planned Landsat Product Development

Since release of the Phase 1 Landsat 7 SLC-off gap-filled product in May 2004, the USGS Landsat Project has been taking steps to increase the utility of the ETM+ data that includes non-functional scan line corrector (SLC) artifacts. The Phase 2 gap-filled product will combine one or more SLC-off scenes into an SLC-off/SLC-off gap-filled product using a similar registration and histogram matching technique as the Phase 1 product. Public release is planned for early October 2004 with a price of \$300. This product will overcome the temporal issues associated with the Phase 1 SLC-on/SLC-off gap-filled product. The scan gap mask files distributed with the Phase 1 product will be enhanced for Phase 2 to better assist the user in determining the source scene for each pixel in the gap-filled scene. The Earth Explorer ordering interface will guide the user through the ordering process of choosing appropriate SLC-off scenes to generate their gap-filled product. A sample product along with further information can be found at http://landsat7.usgs.gov/sample_products.php.

Landsat Program Outreach

The program managers take communications relating to changes in the Landsat Program very seriously. A number of media are being used to communicate changes and keep interested parties informed. Landsat Program staff will be attending a number of technical conferences and encourage visitors to stop by the USGS exhibit booths to learn about the Landsat Program. Recent and upcoming conferences where booths or presentations have been scheduled include: the ESRI conference in San Diego, California in August; IGARRS in Anchorage, Alaska in September; and the fall technical conference for ASPRS in Kansas City, Missouri in September.

As part of the annual ASPRS meeting to be held in Baltimore, Maryland in March 2005, a special session is planned to present the status, current applications of data, and plans for the Landsat Program.

The Landsat Monthly Update is an informal communication tool, prepared monthly and distributed electronically to USGS Landsat partners, to provide information about Landsat activities and related topics of interest. If you have any ideas, comments, corrections, or successes you would like to share with the Landsat community, please contact Ronald Beck, USGS Landsat team, at the following e-mail address: beck@usgs.gov.